

Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION SS-25

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R 161210Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2431
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JIDDA 6376

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, SA
SUBJECT: SAG RECOMMENDING ARAB ACCEPTANCE OF SINAI AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR HAS MADE SEVERAL REQUESTS THAT
EITHER KING KHALID OR CROWN PRINCE FAHD MAKE A PUBLIC
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT OF THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT
SIMILIAR TO THAT MADE BY PRINCE SAUD SEPTEMBER 2. NEITHER
HAS YET DONE SO BUT SAUDI LEADERS ARE ADVISING OTHER
COUNTRIES--ESPECIALLY ALGERIA AND SYRIA--TO MODERATE THEIR
POSITIONS AND ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT. PRINCE SAUD TAKES
THE CREDIT FOR WHAT HE TERMS THE RECENT MODERATION OF
THE SYRIAN POSITION. END SUMMARY.

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1. SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER, PRINCE SAUD, IN HIS FAREWELL STATEMENT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER ON SEPTEMBER 2, PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE JUST-CONCLUDED EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT AS A STEP TOWARD THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

2. I HAVE ASKED PRINCE SAUD, CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND DEFENSE MINISTER SULTAN SUBSEQUENTLY IF KHALID OR CROWN PRINCE FAHD COULD MAKE A FURTHER OR SIMILAR PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT. THEY HAVE NOT YET DONE SO - AND MAY NOT EVER- BUT THEY ARE ADVISING THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONDITION THAT IT WILL BE FOLLOWED QUICKLY BY OTHER STEPS TOWARD A PERMANENT PEACE. HOWEVER SAUD HIMSELF AGAIN REFERRED TO THE ACCORD IN A PRESS STATEMENT ON HIS RETURN FROM IRAN SEPT 11. (CARRIED FBIS)

3. ACCORDING TO PRINCE SAUD, THE SAG HAS URGED, PARTICULARLY, THE ALGERIANS AND THE SYRIANS TO MODERATE THEIR POSITIONS ON THE AGREEMENT. THE SAUDIS HAVE SAID THAT THEY HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BUT HAVE WARNED THE RADICALS THAT THE ARABS WOULD ONLY LOSE BY ALLOWING THEIR DIFFERENCES ON THIS MATTER TO SPLIT ARAB RANKS. PRINCE SAUD TOLD ME THE SYRIANS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE SAUDI APPROACH AND HE TOOK CREDIT FOR THE "MODERATE" LINE TAKEN BY PRESIDENT ASAD IN HIS RECENT SPEECH IN PRAGUE. THE SAUDIS ALSO THINK THE ALGERIANS HAVE TAKEN THEIR ADVICE AND HAVE MODERATED "ABOUT AS MUCH AS THEY CAN" THEIR LINE TOWARD THE AGREEMENT. THE SAUDIS ARE ALSO TRYING TO PERSUADE THE IRAQIS AND THE PALESTINIANS TO MODERATE THEIR OPPOSITION AND

THEY MAY EVEN BE SUCCESSFUL HERE.

4. COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED HERE THAT THE SAUDIS ARE VERY SPECIFIC IN THEIR BACKING OF THE AGREEMENT; THEY ARE OPERATING UNDER NO BELIEF THAT IT IS IN FACT A "DEFINITE POSITIVE" STEP TOWARD PEACE, ONLY THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN A SOLID ARAB FRONT. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THERE IS AT LEAST A BARE CHANCE OF ISRAEL MAKING
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THE NECESSARY CONCESSIONS FOR PEACE. BUT IN ANY CASE, THE ARABS MUST PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR A WAR WHICH MOST- POSSIBLY ALL- LEADING SAUDIS BELIEVE IS INEVITABLE. (SEE NEXT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FOR ANALYSIS FOR SAUDI ATTITUDES.)
AKINS

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